

got some young scientists from Benjamin Banneker High School with us. Thank you all for joining us. I appreciate you being here. I hope that you are inspired by the examples of excellence and success that you see right here in this ceremony today.

You know, it's interesting, people generally do not pursue a career in science or technology with the goal of fame. I'm kind of trying to change that today. [*Laughter*] The work of discovery is quiet and often solitary. Yet all Americans benefit from your imagination and your talent and your resolve. And so today we're here to say thanks for what you've done; thanks for helping improve the quality of life in this country; thanks for inspiring others. Congratulations on your medals, and now the military aide will read the citations.

[*At this point, Lt. Col. Christian Cabaniss, USMC, Marine Corps Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.*]

**The President.** Again, thank you for coming. Got a little reception back here for the honorees and their families. I'm proud to have you here in the White House. May God continue to bless our great Nation. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

### Remarks Following Discussions With United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

February 13, 2006

**President Bush.** Mr. Secretary-General, thank you. As usual, we had a very constructive dialog. I always enjoy visiting with the Secretary-General. It gives us a chance to talk about our common interests and our desire for peace and liberty around the world.

We had a good discussion on Sudan, with particular emphasis on Darfur. I told the Secretary-General that Mrs. Garang was in to see me the other day and that we had a long discussion—she and I had a long discussion not only about the Darfur region but about implementing the north-south accords. And

I appreciate the Secretary's leadership on that issue.

We talked about the broader Middle East. And there's a lot to talk about. I am very optimistic, however, that democracy and liberty will prevail. And so I want to thank you for your interest and leadership on those particular issues.

We talked about U.N. reform, structural reform, management reform, as well as the reform of the Human Rights Commission. I was most interested in the Secretary-General's thoughts. I appreciate very much his leading on these issues, and we'll continue to work closely through Secretary Bolton—Ambassador Bolton with the Security Council and the United Nations.

And so, Mr. Secretary-General, thanks for coming. It's always a pleasure to welcome you here to the Oval Office. And the floor is yours.

**Secretary-General Annan.** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I also enjoy our periodic exchanges, and I'm very happy that we have agreed to work together on the Darfur issue, working with other governments from Europe, from Asia, and other regions, to ensure that we do have an effective security presence on the ground to protect the IDPs and ensure that humanitarian workers have access to those in need. And of course, this is an issue where all governments have to play their role.

On security—on the U.N. reform and Human Rights Council, I think the President and I agree that we need to reform the Human Rights Council, and it should be done as soon as possible. The President of the General Assembly, Jan Eliasson, is working very hard to ensure that we will have that done by this month, and that when the Human Rights Commission meets in Geneva, it will be in the process of transformation; it will not be business as usual. And I also thanked the President for all the support he's given us on U.N. reform, on the broader U.N. reform. And there are quite a lot of things that we're going to do.

We also discussed the Middle East and the Hamas elections and the need for transformation of Hamas into a political party along the lines that the Quartet had discussed. And I think there is an opportunity

here for Hamas to transform itself into a political party and work with the international community and the Israeli Government.

We also touched on the issue of the nuclear issue in—of Iran. And here again, I hope between now and the time the Atomic Agency issues its next report, there will be indications and steps from the Iranian side to indicate that negotiations are not dead and that both sides can come back to the table and find a way out of this crisis. We need to be able to resolve it, and I hope there will be no steps taken to escalate the situation.

Thank you very much.

**President Bush.** I appreciate you. Good job. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rebecca Garang, Minister of Transportation, Roads, and Bridges, Government of Southern Sudan; and Ambassador John R. Bolton, U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

### Remarks Honoring the 2005 World Series Champion Chicago White Sox February 13, 2006

**The President.** Welcome. Thank you. Be seated. They may be playing basketball, but it's always baseball season here. [Laughter]

The last time the Chicago White Sox won the World Series was 1917. President Woodrow Wilson was living here. Reinsdorf, I don't know if you came here then or not. [Laughter] There were only eight teams in the American League, and the league leader hit a total of nine home runs. After 88 years of waiting, the White Sox have earned the right to be called world champs, and we're glad you're here.

First of all, I want to welcome Jerry Reinsdorf. Some of my most joyous times in my life have been during—as a baseball owner. Harold Baines may not have thought they were so joyous, since we never won much. [Laughter] And one of the reasons that I ended up in baseball with my partners is because of Jerry Reinsdorf's help, and I want to thank you for that now that we've got the team here. I know how much you love the game, and I know how much you

love the Chicago White Sox. And so it had to be a thrilling moment for you and Eddie and the owners that were patient for all those years you didn't win. And so I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart, and thank you for your friendship. It's great to see you.

I appreciate Ken Williams, a man who obviously knows what he's doing who is—was able to put a team together. It's easy to put stars on the field. The hard thing about baseball is to put people who can play together, and I congratulate you for being a great general manager.

I welcome Ed Farmer and the broadcasting team. Eddie, good to see you again. Thanks. I can see they all remember you—at least one person does. [Laughter]

It's good to be here with Bob DuPuy of baseball. I thought you're here to sign the lease, you know, but it's—[laughter]—another subject.

I do want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. It's great to see you all. I thought you all told me you were Red Sox fans. [Laughter]

I want to thank Senator Durbin and Senator Obama from the great State of Illinois, and Don Manzullo and Roy LaHood—Ray LaHood. Thank you all for coming.

I—my question to most of these folks was like, “Were you White Sox fans at the beginning of the season?” [Laughter]

**Audience member.** Yes, he puts us on the spot.

**The President.** Yes, he did. No, I'm not putting you on the spot. But I know one person—elected official who was a White Sox fan at the beginning of the season. As a matter of fact, he was a White Sox fan at the beginning of his life. He's been forever a White Sox fan. He is a great mayor of a great city, and that's the mayor, his honor, Dick Daley. Thanks for coming.

Roland Hemond, good to see you, Roland. Thank you. Just showing off my baseball knowledge. Anybody that knows—[laughter]—knows Roland Hemond knows something about baseball. And it's good to see Harold Baines and the other coaches.

I understand Ozzie is on vacation, which I fully understand. If he's a Caribbean guy, taking a look at the weather forecast up here yesterday would have made me not want to